Madhya Pradesh. According to available information, out of these 36 licences, one licence was granted for the manufacture of items pertaining to food processing industries in the cooperative sector.

**Hike in the prices of Nickel, Tin and Zinc**

1328. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC, which is a canalising agency, has hiked the prices of nickel, tin and zinc;

(b) if so, what would be its impact on industries which use these basic metals; and

(c) what are the reasons for this increase ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c) The domestic selling prices of nickel, tin and zinc are fixed every month by a Pricing Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Controller of Imports & Exports after taking into account the landed cost of imports by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited (MMTC), the canalising agency, with the prevailing import duties added. Thus, any increase in the international prices of these metals has a direc bearing on the domestic prices.

The prices of these non-ferrous metals since January, 1989 are indicated below ;

Rs. per MT

| | Nickel | Tin | Zinc |
|---|---|---|---|
| January '89 | 3,54,000 | 2,52,000 | 39,800 |
| February '89 | 3,75,000 | 2,52,000 | 42,500 |
| March '89 | 4,08,000 | 2,65,000 | 48,200 |
| April '89 | 4,23,000 | 2,96,000 | 50,500 |
| May '89 | 4,23,000 | 3.88,000 | 50,500 |

The prices of these non-ferrous metals have a bearing on the cost of production of manufactured goods to the extent of their use.

**Decontrol of Steel**

1329. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to decontrol steel; and

(b) if so, at what stage does it rest now ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**मंडल आयोग की सिफारिशों का कार्यान्वयन**

1330. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछड़े वर्गों के संबंध में मंडल आयोग के प्रतिवेदन में अन्तर्विष्ट अन्य